

REMARKS

Claims 17 to 25 are pending. Applicant has canceled claims 1 to 16 and replaced them with new claims 17 to 25. The new claims find full support in the original specification and claims. No new matter is presented. In the Office action, the Examiner required restriction to one of four groups of claims. Applicants hereby elect Group 1 (which originally contained claims 1, 2, 5 to 7, 10 and 14), directed to use of extracts from Iridaceae. In view of the above amendments, favorable consideration and a timely indication of allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the Claims:

Please amend claims 17 and 18 as follows:

17. (Amended) A method for producing an estrogen-type effect in a patient without causing a substantial uterotrophic effect, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a medicament comprising an extract from an Iridaceae plant, wherein the extract is selected from the group consisting of Belamcanda chinensis, Iris Germanica, Iris tectorum, Iris Illyrica, and Iris dichotoma, and/or comprises at least one of tectorigenin and tectorigenin glycoside, with the proviso that the medicament does not comprise Belamcandra [chinesis] chinensis extract [is not used] if the medicament is used for treating a peri-menopausal [and] or post-menopausal [disorders] disorder.

Confusing

18. (Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the extract is a Belamcandra [chinesis] chinensis extract.

19. A method according to claim 17, wherein the extract comprises at least one of tectorigenin and tectorigenin glycoside.

20. A method according to claim 17, wherein the extract is enriched with at least one of tectorigenin and tectorigenin glycoside.

21. A method according to claim 17, wherein the production of the estrogen-type effect comprises treatment and/or prophylaxis of a cardiovascular disease.

reducing the risk of

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein the cardiovascular disease is atherosclerosis.

23. A method according to claim 17, wherein the production of the estrogen-type effect comprises treatment and/or prophylaxis of osteoporosis.

24. A method according to claim 17, wherein the production of the estrogen-type effect comprises treatment and/or prophylaxis of a climacteric disorder.

reducing the risk of

25. A method according to claim 17, wherein the production of the estrogen-type effect comprises preventing or alleviating hot flushes.

reducing the risk of

C2 26. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein the extract is produced with an organic solvent or supercritical CO₂.